



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM Fire

Fire Year 2025 Program Overview

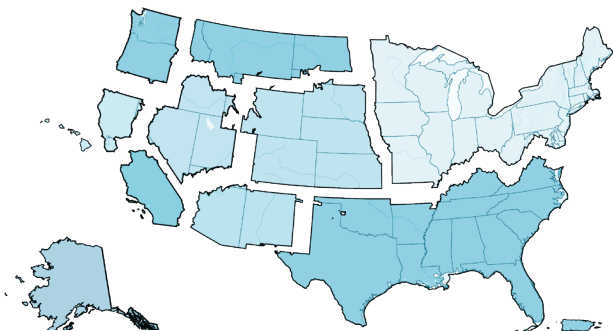
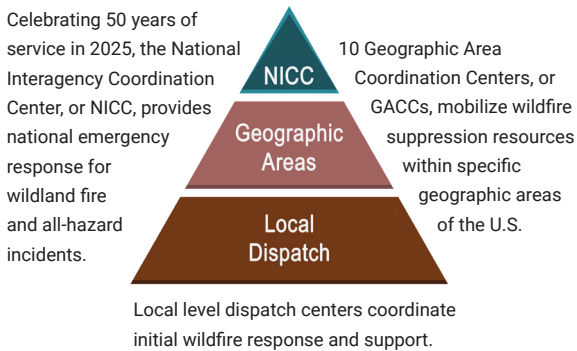


We are BLM Fire

The Bureau of Land Management Fire program is the largest and most complex fire program within the Department of the Interior, or DOI. The BLM represents 61% of DOI's fire-related workforce and is directly responsible for fire management on more than 245 million acres of public lands, predominantly in the western United States and Alaska; wildfire is prevalent across much of this landscape. This land is commonly intermixed with other federal, state, and local jurisdictions, making partnerships and collaborative efforts crucial to the mission of safety and fire management. Overall, BLM Fire implements fire protection on approximately 650 million acres of public land with other fire management agencies and manages fuels treatments to reduce wildfire risk and support healthy ecosystems across the landscape.

Resource mobilization

All fire suppression resources are supported by a three-tier interagency network of dispatch and coordination centers across the country. The national dispatch system's primary mission is the timely, cost effective, and efficient coordination, mobilization and demobilization of wildland fire resources.



Our resources



- 13** Interagency hotshot crews
- 154** Smokejumpers
- 6** Veterans crews
- 4** Wildland fire modules
- 18** Helitack crews
- 25** Helicopters
- 34** Single engine airtankers
- 4** Water scoopers
- 26** Tactical aircraft
- 85** Uncrewed aircraft systems
- 276** Engines
- 23** Semi trucks
- 23** Dozers
- 12** Water tenders
- 2** Fire boats
- 34** RFPAs

The number of hotshot crews includes 2 veterans crews. RFPAs are Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

Unique fire management challenges

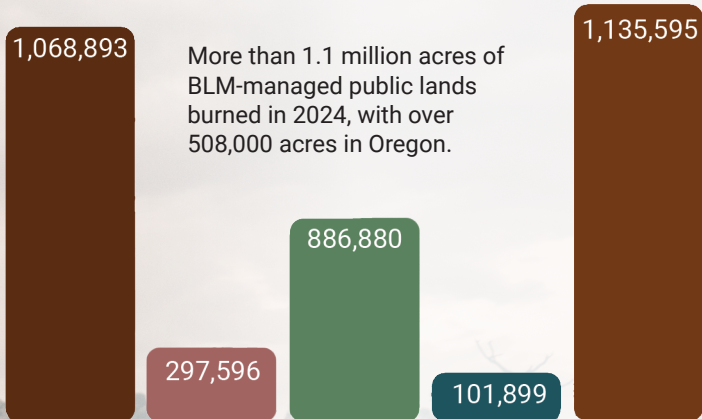
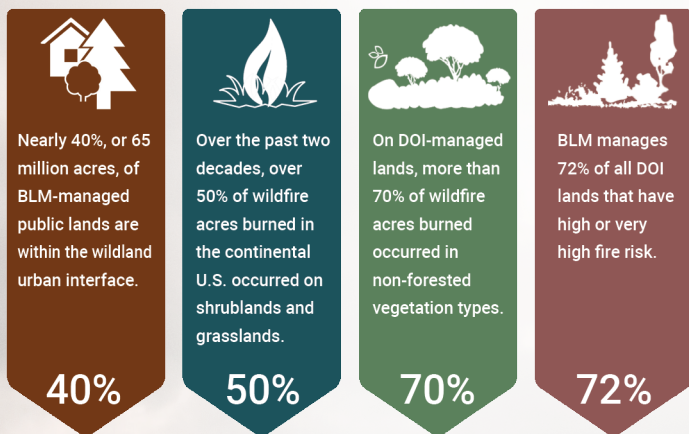
Most BLM-managed public lands are composed of non-forested shrub and grass ecosystems. Invasive weeds, which make landscapes more flammable, are present in many of these ecosystems. Cycles of frequent wildfire followed by invasive weeds are impacting vast areas of the western U.S., particularly in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem. Due to the fire and invasives cycle, many western ecosystems are experiencing too much wildfire compared to historical fire regimes. Suppressing wildfires in these ecosystems is costly and puts wildland firefighters at risk.

The BLM is working to preserve ecosystems that are currently not impacted by invasive weeds while restoring ecological balance in other ecosystems where invasive weeds are changing the landscape and increasing wildfire risk. This work supports healthy public lands, reduces wildfire risk, and decreases wildfire suppression costs.



Single engine aircraft flew 10,860 hours and dropped 10.7 million gallons of retardant/ water (all agencies) in 2024.

BLM flew 3,075 hours and dropped 1.9 million gallons.



Acres burned on BLM-managed public lands (2020-2024)

25

25 square miles of rangelands with invasive grasses can burn in just one day.

100-400K

100,000 - 400,000-acre wildfires are now common across the West.

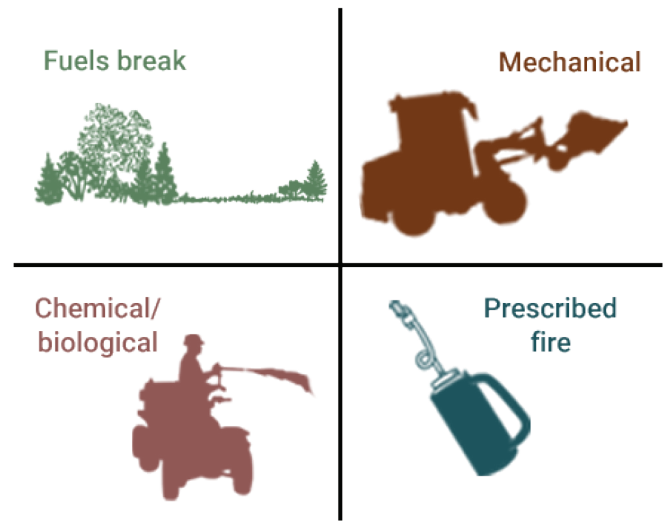


Fuels management

The BLM achieved over 1.3 million acres of fuels treatments in 2024. By increasing fuels accomplishments, the BLM will improve wildfire resiliency, improve firefighter and public safety, protect communities, and boost local economies.

The BLM Fuels Management program is focused on managing landscapes to reduce wildfire risk, improve wildfire resiliency and promote fire-adapted communities. This effort is critical considering the vast spread of wildfire risk throughout the West, as the BLM works to address more than 70% of DOI's wildfire risk. To address these fire-invasives challenges, the BLM conducts a wide variety of fuels treatment projects, including fuel breaks, mechanical treatments, chemical and biological treatments, and prescribed fire. Fuels treatment options are limited in areas where invasive weeds are present; many of these areas are experiencing too much wildfire.

This work protects vulnerable communities from wildfire while preparing natural landscapes for a changing climate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law supports treatments in the wildland urban interface, or WUI, to protect communities and public drinking water through mechanical thinning and prescribed fire, employing contractors, young adults, veterans, and Tribal youth.



In 2024, the BLM treated over 1.3 million acres through active management, continuing the trend of exceeding 1 million acres for the 3rd year in a row.



The BLM accomplished more than 50% of the DOI's total fuels treatment acres.



With over 40% of BLM-managed public lands falling within the WUI, BLM's Community Assistance program focuses on creating partnerships by providing funding and support for wildland fire mitigation and education activities across ownership boundaries.

Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation

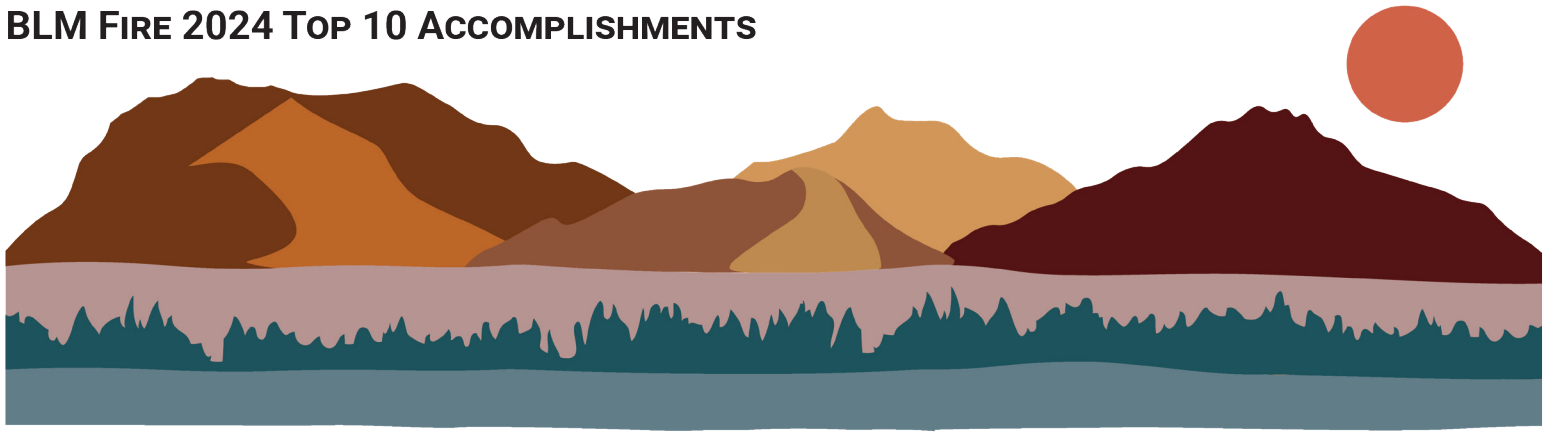


The ESR process

The BLM uses emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, or ESR, treatments to reduce the risk of resource damage and restore landscapes impacted by wildfire and to promote long-term restoration and recovery objectives. Development of treatments use the best available science to ensure success and effectiveness.

- In 2024, the BLM treated over 680,000 acres consisting mostly of seeding, planting, and herbicide application.
 - The BLM submitted over 85 new ESR plans for wildfires.
 - In collaboration with BIA, FWS, and NPS, the BLM invested over \$29 million of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to develop native seeds necessary to aid landscapes unlikely to recover naturally from wildfire.
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BLM FIRE 2024 TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



INFRASTRUCTURE

BLM Fire allocated \$5 million for fire facility repairs and modernization at the Baker Fire Quarters, Mountain Home SEAT Base, Boise Air Center, Miles City Dispatch, Lewistown Fire Station, Billings Lagoon, and Billings Wareyard.



WORKFORCE

The BLM has been a leader among wildland fire management agencies to advance the use of the new 0456 Wildland Fire Management Series. Nearly 1,600 employees transitioned to the 0456 series.



FUELS MANAGEMENT

The BLM transitioned from NFPORS to the Interior Fuels and Post-fire Reporting System, or IFPRS, which enhances consistency across bureaus to track and report fuels treatment accomplishments, including BLM's annual achievement of 1.3 million acres.



COMMUNICATIONS



A \$2.8 million contract was awarded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure

Law, funding 10 radio kits utilizing Starlink satellite technology to address radio interoperability issues on wildfires.

AVIATION

The BLM completed its first reintegration pilot training since 2019, now with approximately 70 remote pilots, forecasted to reach nearly 130 by the end of 2025. BLM experienced an 80-110% increase in UAS flights, hours, and projects served, while retiring its existing fleet for new compliant aircraft systems.



INTERAGENCY

NASA joined the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, or NWCG, as an associate member and is forming partnerships with wildland fire management bureaus. This



collaboration aims to leverage NASA's data, technology, and innovative solutions.

SCIENCE

The Joint Fire Science Program's Fire Science Exchange Network continued to exchange wildland fire science research results and outcomes with wildland fire managers, reaching over 22,000

individuals across federal, state, local, Tribal, academic, NGO, and private sectors.



STORYTELLING

BLM Fire, specifically the growing Wildfire Matters podcast, was featured across the federal government from the Office of Management and Budget and General Services Administration as an outstanding behind-the-scenes outreach initiative.



MEDICAL

The entire BLM is now part of the Operational Medical Support Program and provided 26 in-person trainings to over 395 authorized providers.



BUDGET

BLM Fire managed over \$1 billion in all program areas including a record \$520 million in suppression costs.



BLM wildfire risk assessment map

Lower 48 Fire Risk Categories

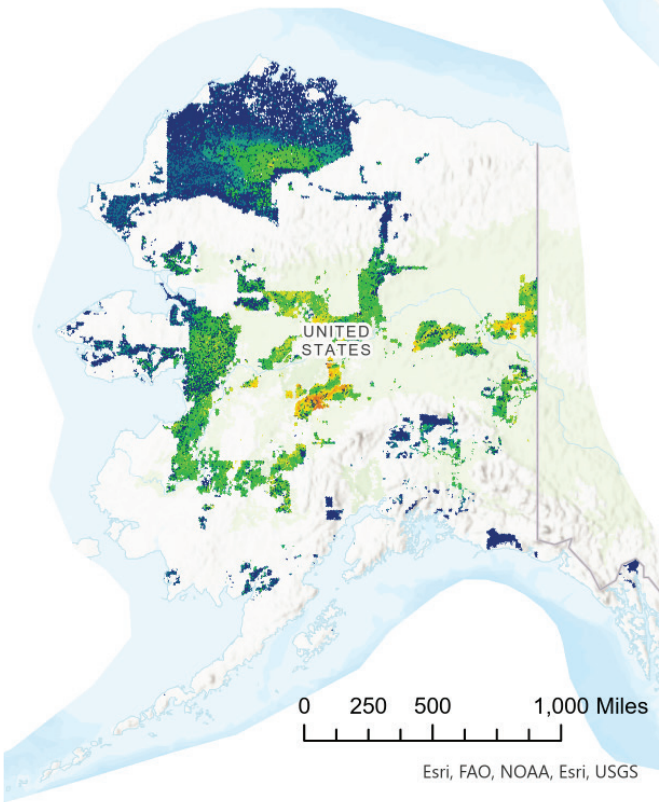
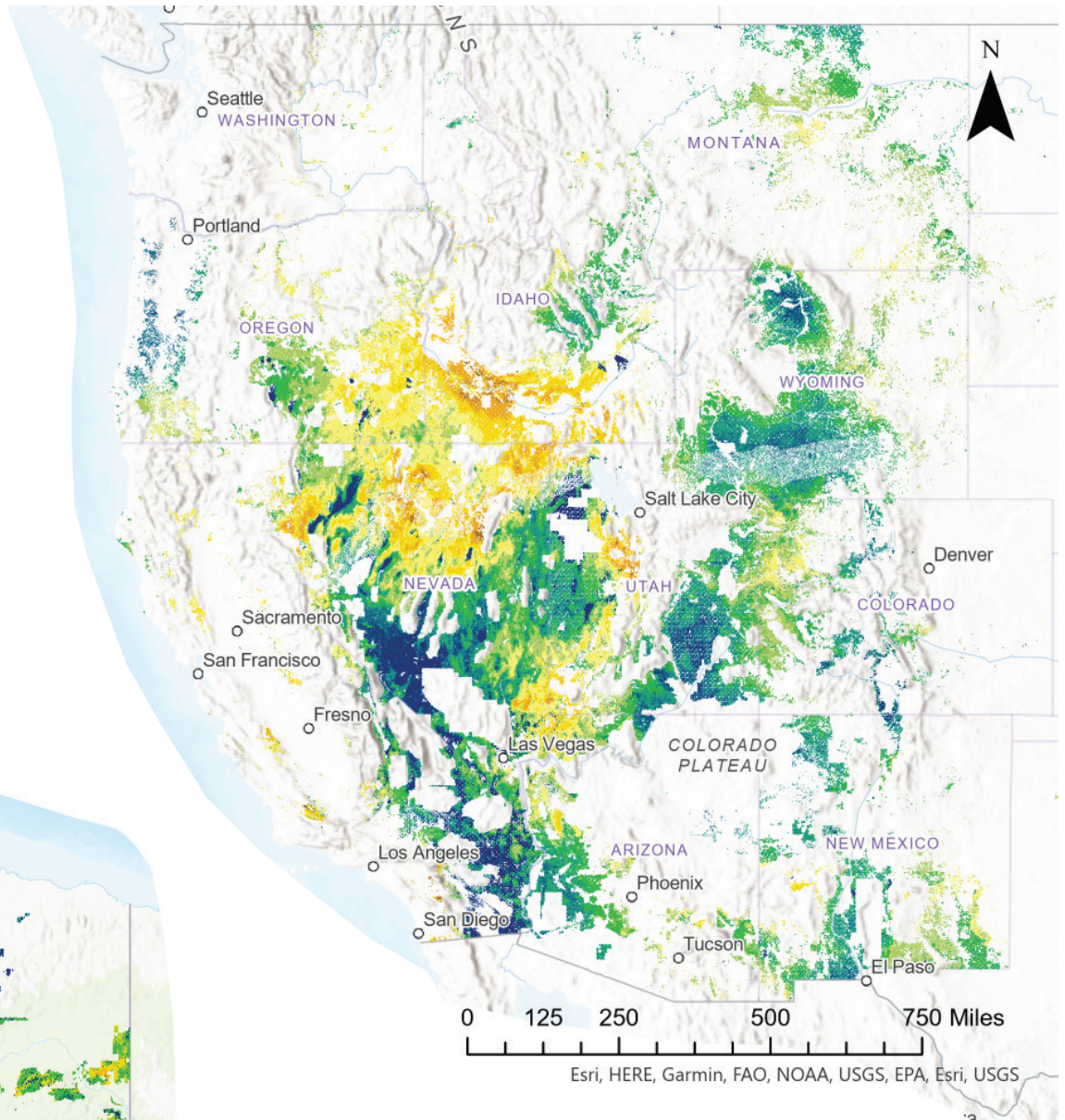
Fuels Management Priority

- 0 - Non-Burnable
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Low
- 4 - Low
- 5 - Low/Moderate
- 6 - Moderate
- 7 - Moderate/High
- 8 - High
- 9 - High
- 10 - Highest

Alaska Fire Risk Categories

Fuels Management Priority

- 0 - Non-Burnable
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Low
- 4 - Low
- 5 - Low
- 6 - Low/Moderate
- 7 - Moderate
- 8 - Moderate/High
- 9 - High
- 10 - Highest



Wildfire Matters takes you behind the scenes to talk with the people who strive to manage the landscape, protect our precious natural resources, and keep our communities safe as we continue to learn how to live with wildfire.



Join us to celebrate National Wildland Firefighter Day on July 2. This day is designed to recognize the hard work and devotion of all wildland firefighters and support personnel who are the backbone of the wildland fire community.



BLM Fire

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